

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 5129

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EG, US

SUBJECT: REMARKS OF EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR

ON JANUARY 24, AT A DIPLOMATIC RECEPTION IN HONOR OF THE NEW GDR FOREIGN MINISTER FISCHER, I HAD ABOUT A FIVE-MINUTE TALK WITH THE AMBASSADOR OF EGYPT, MOSTAFA TAWFIK, WHO WAS ANXIOUS TO TALK ABOUT THE MIDDLE EAST. NOTING THE GOOD RELATIONSHIP WHICH EXISTS BETWEEN THE SECRETARY AND PRESIDENT SADAT, HE SAID THAT HIS COUNTRY AND OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES WERE LOOKING FORWARD TO THE VISIT OF SECRETARY KISSINGER AND THAT IT WAS HIS COUNTRY'S VIEW THAT AN EFFECTIVE SETTLEMENT MUST BE REACHED AS A RESULT OF THE SECRETARY'S VISIT. HE NOTED THAT PRESIDENT SADAT HAD BEEN THE PIONEER WILLING TO RECOGNIZE THE STATE OF ISRAEL AND HAD BEEN A RESTRAINING FACTOR ON OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES. NEVERTHE- LESS, HE CHARACTERIZED ISRAEL AS EXPECTING TO LIVESBY WAR AS IF FOR A TEMPORARY PERIOD OF 10 TO 20 YEARS, WHILE IGNORING THE LONG TERM INTEREST OF A SETTLEMENT WHICH WOULD ESTABLISH IT AS A RECOGNIZED STATE, LIVING AT PEACE WITH ITS ARAB NEIGHBORS. HE SAID THAT WAR SHOULD BE UNTHINKABLE TO ISRAEL NOTING THAT FOR EGYPT THE WARS HAD WASTED ITS RESOURCES, HUMAN AND MATERIAL, THE DANGER THAT THE RESUMPTION OF FIGHTING WOULD LEAD TO AN EXPANDED WAR, BRINGING IN NEW FACTORS WHICH WOULD LEAVE THE COUNTRIES WEAKENED IN HUMAN AND MATERIAL RESOURCES, AND PERHAPS WITH CHANGES IN POLITICAL SYSTEMS THEY DID NOT WANT OR ENVISION. HE SAID THAT ISRAEL'S NEED WAS FOR A STRONG LEADER,

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SUPPORTED BY ITS PEOPLE, WHO COULD MAKE A PEACE, AND THAT

RABIN NEITHER HAD SUCH STRENGTH NOR THE SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE.
HE ASKED TO SEE ME AGAIN AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT I WOULD
CONVEY HIS STATEMENT TO SECRETARY KISSINGER.COOPER

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